



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Director

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Clark Stevens

***SPECIAL BOARD MEETING***

SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

**Monday May 18, 2015—6:00 P.M.**

**Resource Conservation District Office  
540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd, Topanga, CA 90290**

**MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Nancy Helsley and Steve Rosentsweig in attendance. Director Mary Ellen Strote was absent. Also in attendance were Associate Director Dennis Washburn, Executive Officer Clark Stevens, Education Programs Supervisor Stephen Vodantis and Operations Manager John Hendra.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dawn Afman, NRCS District Conservationist.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
  - Mr. Brody recounted the history and issues around the renewal of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Canyon View Boarding and Training Ranch for Dogs. He stated that the RCD shouldn't have written a letter of support but should instead have limited its comments to a litany of BMPs instead of supporting a particular number of dogs.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of April 27, 2015. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
5. **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of financial reports and claims for April 2015. **Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**
6. **REGULAR CALENDAR**
  - A. Review and possible amendment of Policy for Initiating, Producing and Reviewing Comment Letters from the RCDSMM, approved September 27, 2010: Mr. Stevens proposed an amendment to the policy that would require the Executive Officer to notify the Board through email each time staff proposes to submit a comment letter. If one or more Directors have concerns about commenting they would contact the Executive Officer, who would then call an ad hoc committee of two Directors to discuss the matter and decide how to move forward. If there is disagreement among the three, the matter would go to the entire Board at the next Board meeting or an emergency meeting will be called if



the submission deadline is prior to the next Board meeting. The Board directed Mr. Stevens to revise the policy and bring it to the next meeting for approval.

- B. Letter of support to Los Angeles County Regional Planning for Conditional Use Permit for Canyon View Boarding and Training Ranch for Dogs: Mr. Brody, having a potential financial interest in this agenda item due to its location near his home, recused himself from this discussion and vote. Mr. Stevens recounted the process that led to this letter and discussed what issues contributed to the decision to comment. After discussion of the controversies surrounding the letter and CUP, the Board directed Mr. Stevens to produce a clarification letter that focuses on resource issues and return it to the Board for approval next meeting.
  - C. Letter of support to designate the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) as a National Monument: Mr. Stevens described the issues surrounding the SSFL and what effect national monument status has for the property. After discussion, the Board voted to send a letter of support. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Helsley/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0**
  - D. Staff presentations: overview of RCD projects and programs: Mr. Vodantis' report was moved to the beginning of the meeting. He gave an overview with statistics of the education programs he manages. The Board asked questions about the programs and his future needs. Mr. Vodantis left after giving his report. Mr. Stevens will report next meeting.
  - E. CARCD Vision & Standards: tabled to next meeting **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
  - F. Five year strategic plan review and process: tabled to next meeting. **Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
7. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:**  
Ms. Afman reported that a volunteer group of Salvation Army Southern Baptists came to the Camarillo Springs landslide site and removed almost all the slide material, which saved a number of homes. They are now working on renovating the homes damaged by the slide.
8. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**
- A. Staff Reports for April (written unless otherwise noted):
    - i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer: Mr. Stevens gave his report orally. The RCD has been asked to submit a letter of support for a grant written by the Chumash for planning work at the SSFL. He will distribute the letter prior to sending.
    - ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager
    - iii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor
    - iv. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist

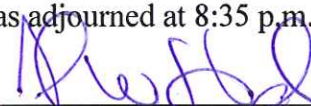


- B. California Association of Resource Conservation Districts: no report.
- C. CARCD Central Coast Area: report from meeting of May 7, 2015 at King City (John Hendra): Mr. Hendra reported on the resources available through CARCD and DOC to assist the RCD in meeting the new CARCD standards. He also reported on the legislative work Conservation Strategies Group has been doing in the Capitol to put RCD's in line for State funding and noted that two key legislators for the Central Coast Area are from the Santa Monica Mountains.
- D. Envirothon (Nancy Helsley): Ms. Helsley reported that the event went well. Pacific Palisades won the competition and Woodland Hills High was second. She thanked Mr. Brody and Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist, for their volunteer efforts. The Envirothon folks wrote a grant to increase underrepresented student participation, so they have \$2000 for next year.
- E. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee (Glenn Bailey): no report.

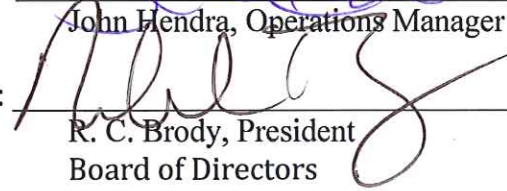
**9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Washburn presented the Wildlife Crossing project to the Southern California Association of Governments, who approved it overwhelmingly.
- Ms. Helsley announced that the Mountains Restoration Trust is holding a farewell and appreciation for Jo Kitz on Tuesday May 19 from 2-4 p.m.
- Ms. Burnam reported that a mountain lion was seen near Topanga Canyon.

**10. ADJOURNMENT: Moved/Seconded: Ms. Helsley/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**  
 The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by:   
 John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: 8/18/15

Approved by:   
 R. C. Brody, President  
 Board of Directors

Date: 8/24/15

